

Just days after Democrats used the filibuster power to block Senator SCOTT's police reform bill, even colleagues who recently defended this important tradition have now bowed to the pressure to flirt with ending it.

On a similar note, you may remember that a kind of naked intimidation without modern precedent in modern memory took place a few months ago. The Democratic leader stood by the steps of the Supreme Court and directly threatened Justices if they ruled the wrong way in the June Medical Services case.

This display aligned with a whole new tradition of Senate Democrats threatening judges. A year ago, several wrote Justices saying the "Court is not well [and] perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured.'"

In other words, nice judicial independence you have got there. It would be a shame if something happened to it.

Right on cue, a number of leftwing groups are agitating to revive the discredited notion of court-packing.

Now, following the Democratic leader's display, the Court ruled the way he wanted on that very case. They handed it down on Monday of this week. Our colleague took to the floor cracking jokes, giddy—giddy—he had gotten his way, but just moments later the Democratic leader picked right up where he left off, impugning and pressuring one Justice whose vote he disliked.

So you see, the improper pressure and the accusations of illegitimacy will never end. No amount of rulings the Democrats like would be enough because the fundamental respect for an independent judiciary is simply not there.

This is about outcomes, not institutions, and there is no limit to how far left the goalposts will move.

Well, the subject is not going away, but for today I will leave it there. This weekend, July 4, Americans will celebrate our founding. We will celebrate the Framers and the traditions and the institutions that they left us.

We cannot let radicals tear down their likenesses or their legacies. We must preserve the gifts and the institutions we celebrate so our grandchildren and their grandchildren can celebrate them as well.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate continues to consider the National Defense Authorization Act. I understand we are close to a bipartisan structure for amendments, and if our Democratic colleagues will let us, I hope we can move forward today.

All week I have discussed how the 60th consecutive NDAA will help our Nation protect its people, stand with our allies, and keep pace with our competitors. This legislation has global

reach, but, as all my colleagues know, the NDAA is also a profoundly local bill for communities in all 50 States.

My home State is proud to support three Army installations and the men and women of the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard. Last fall, I hosted Defense Secretary Mark Esper in Kentucky to speak with the Fort Knox community. He called for a renewed commitment to supporting our all-volunteer force, including military spouses and their families.

The NDAA advances that goal. It will authorize a new elementary school at Fort Knox. This construction, paired with progress toward a new middle school at Fort Campbell, will continue making Kentucky's installations a welcoming home for military families.

This project comes on the heels of Fort Knox's selection for the new V Corps headquarters. This mission brings more than 600 additional soldiers to Kentucky in support of U.S. operations over in Europe. They will join Fort Knox's already impressive list of significant commands, including the Army's Recruiting, Cadet, and Human Resources Command. The V Corps will find a premier installation made even better by this NDAA.

Our bill also authorizes the construction of a new headquarters for the Kentucky National Guard. The facility will consolidate the Guard's operation to a central location.

Just recently, our citizen soldiers and airmen have stepped up to combat COVID-19. I am glad this legislation will deliver for them.

At the Blue Grass Army Depot, the NDAA will advance the disposal of legacy chemical weapons. Families in Madison County have lived for generations with these deadly agents practically in their backyards. For years, I have fought alongside them to support safe and responsible demilitarization.

In just the first year of chemical destruction activities, the depot has already completed a campaign ahead of schedule. An entire type of munition has been completely deleted from the U.S. stockpile. Our legislation will help us safely consign more of these weapons to the ash heap of history.

Now, I have also spoken this week about the growing boldness of our Nation's adversaries and the evolving threats our servicemembers face. The men and women of Fort Campbell, including the 101st Airborne, are among those our Nation turns to first to handle serious challenges. Their recent deployments to Europe, Afghanistan, and to support the COVID-19 response in New York and New Jersey show their importance to our country.

Pursuant to the national defense strategy, this NDAA will encourage new capabilities so elite fighting forces like the 101st are equipped for success under any circumstances.

The Senate is grateful for the courageous service of our Armed Forces. The bipartisan legislation before us honors their sacrifices and authorizes the re-

sources to carry out their missions. Its impact will not be felt just by our adversaries overseas but by our servicemembers and communities right here at home.

I would like to once again thank Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for their serious and thoughtful work.

Let's get this bill moving toward completion.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, two numbers sum up the state of America today: 52,788, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday; and 1.4 million, the number of unemployment claims filed this week. In the next few months, these numbers will be far more important than the job numbers released this morning in determining the long-term health of our economy and the health of this country. The statistics I mentioned would have been harrowing during February, March, April, or May, during the initial surge and rapid spread of the disease. They would have been distressing even then, but here in the beginning of July, 6 months into the crisis, long after other countries have experienced a rapid decline of COVID-19, it is shocking that the United States is hitting ever grimmer milestones.

There is no doubt that much of the responsibility for this debacle—the